Agreement for closer Indo-US Defence Ties

925. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of a US-delegation led by President Bill Clinton's Special Envoy Mr. Richardson, any agreement or understanding has been reached for closer Indo-US defence ties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The visit of the delegation led by Ambassador, Bill Richardson, US Permanent Representative to UN from April 14-15, 1998 was in the context of the broad-based dialogue in which the United States and India have been engaged for the last several months. As part of this process, Indo-US defence cooperation activities which have been proceeding under the 1995 "Agreed Minutes of Defence Relations between India and the United States," were also discussed. These involve service-to-service cooperation activities, training etc., as well as cooperation in a Joint Technology Group on research and development. No new agreement was signed during the visit.

US Intervention in between India and Pakistan

926. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made complaint to the US Government recently about the proliferation of weapon by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the justification for inviting outside power like the US to intervene instead of dealing with Pakistan at the regional level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Pakistan has a long-standing programme to acquire nuclear weapons and missiles through clandestine procurement and transfers from outside. Government has made known its legitimate security concerns to all concerned including the United States.

Government has also made it clear that there is no scope for outside interference in bilateral matters.

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् द्वारा विदेशों में सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों की समीक्षा

927. **श्री नागमणि:**
चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद् विदेशों में स्थित सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों के कार्यकलापों की समीक्षा करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो तत्संबंधी कारण क्या है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) विदेश स्थित भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्रों के कार्यों का भारतीय सांस्कृतिक परिषद् के संघटक निकायों अर्थात् शॉसी निकाय तथा आम सभा द्वारा निरन्तर परीक्षण और समीक्षा की जाती है। इस प्रक्रिया के आधार पर आई सी सी आर की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट तैयार की जाती है।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Finalisation of Trade and Commerce Cooperation with Brazil

928. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the issues of trade, commerce and co-operation discussed and finalised during recent visit of the President to Brazil; and